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MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER, A PROJECT BY UGANDA DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH ASSOCIATES

Anand Chukka

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We performed a monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Resource Center, a sexual and reproductive health initiative run by Uganda Development and Health Associates. This project intervenes in primary and secondary schools in the Iganga and Luuka districts of Eastern Uganda and attempts to increase sexual and reproductive health knowledge among students. The topics covered are related to HIV/AIDS prevention, STI/STD prevention, sexual violence, and general healthcare. This education is delivered through five initiatives: peer health educators, patron teachers, sensitization lectures, anonymous health boxes, and health posters. The evaluation was conducted over two months using a survey handed out to 238 students in six different secondary schools in these two districts, two focus group discussions held with Peer Health Educators (PHEs), and general observations from working with this project for two months. Due to a lack of standardization with the survey distribution, we were unable to garner definitive results but this study has informed areas of concern with the project, including: high scores related to menstrual education and stigma reduction and safe sex practices, and low scores related to sexual violence and malnutrition. This study will hopefully inform future evaluation efforts and provide a preliminary look at the effectiveness of this initiative.